

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 NAHA 00066 101054Z

22

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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/057 W

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R 100810Z FEB 76

FM AMCONSUL NAHA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2002

AMEMBASSY TOKYO 1383

INFO COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB

FMFPAC CAMP SMITH HAWAII

USARJ CAMP ZAMA

5TH AF YOKOTA AB

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HAWAII

CINCPAC

THIRD MAF CAMP BUTLER

USAGO MACHINATO

313TH AD/18TH

MARCORB CAMP BUTLER

COMFLEACTS OKINAWA

OAFB CAMPBUTLER

OAC CAMP BUTLER

COMNAVFORJAPAN

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CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA

PAGE 2 RHAIBQA5169 C O N F I D E N T I A L

TAGS: MARR, JA

SUBJECT: U.S. CRIMES AND OKINAWAN ATTITUDES TOWARD OUR MILITARY  
BASES

SUMMARY: SUBJECT OF CRIMES COMMITTED BY U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL,  
WHICH HAS THE POTENTIAL OF AROUSING STRONG OKINAWAN EMOTIONS AND  
PRESSURES AGAINST OUR MILITARY BASES, DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE MAJOR

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PAGE 02 NAHA 00066 101054Z

FACTOR IN OKINAWAN ATTITUDES TOWARD U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE AT

PRESENT. END SUMMARY.

1. IN VIEW OF STRONG CONCERN EXPRESSED TO ME BY BOTH GOJ AND U.S. OFFICIALS PRIOR TO MY ARRIVAL ON OKINAWA JAN 16 ON GENERAL SUBJECT OF CRIMES COMMITTED BY U.S. FORCES PERSONNEL ON OKINAWA, I HAVE BEEN DEVOTING SPECIAL ATTENTION TO ASSESSING ROLE OF U.S. CRIMES IN CURRENT OKINAWAN ATTITUDES TOWARDS U.S. BASES.

2. WHILE THEY HAVE GENERALLY NOT HESITATED TO MENTION OTHER BASE-RELATED SUBJECTS OF CONCERN, MOST GOJ AND PREFECTURAL OFFICIALS AND MAYORS OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN VICINITY OF OUR MILITARY BASES ON WHOM I HAVE CALLED SO FAR HAVE NOT BROUGHT UP SUBJECT OF CRIMES COMMITTED BY U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL. PROCURATOR GENERAL AND CHIEF OF PREFECTURAL POLICE HAVE DISCUSSED SUBJECT IN TERMS OF OVERALL CONTINUING DOWNWARD TREND IN SERIOUS CRIMES, NOTWITHSTANDING UPSURGES AT CERTAIN TIMES(LAST SUMMER AND IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING PAYDAYS). CHIEF OF PREFECTURAL POLICE AND OKINAWA CITY OFFICIALS

PAGE 3 RHAIBQA5169 C O N F I D E N T I A L

HAVE PINPOINTED B-C STREET AREA OF OKINAWA CITY AS PLACE OF GREATEST INCIDENCE OF CRIMES INVOLVING AMERICANS AND HENCE PLACE REQUIRING CONTINUING HIGH PRIORITY ATTENTION BY U.S. MILITARY AND LOCAL POLICE AUTHORITIES. THEY HAVE ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN OF OKINAWANS WITH REGARD TO PERIODIC CONFRONTATIONS BETWEEN GROUPS OF AMERICAN PERSONNEL WHICH OKINAWA CITY OFFICIALS SAY, HOWEVER, HAVE NOT INVOLVED OKINAWANS TO SIGNIFICANT EXTENT.

3. IN DISCUSSING SUBJECT OF U.S. CRIMES, CONGEN CONTACTS HAVE GENERALLY EXPRESSED AWARENESS OF AND APPRECIATION FOR STRINGENT MEASURES U.S. MILITARY COMMANDERS HAVE BEEN TAKING TO HOLD CRIMES AND OTHER OFFENSES TO THE VERY MINIMUM. RE B-C STREET AREA OF OKINAWA CITY , CHIEF OF PREFECTURAL POLICE HAS GIVEN ASSURANCES THAT NOW THAT EXPO IS OVER POLICE WILL ALLOCATE GREATER ATTENTION AND RESOURCES TO THIS PERENNIAL PROBLEM AREA. AT SAME TIME HE HAS EXPRESSED FIRM POSITION THAT JOINT JAPANESE POLICE-U.S. MILITARY PATROLS IN OFF-BASE AREAS, WHICH HAVE PROVEN USEFUL IN MAINLAND JAPAN OVER THE YEARS, ARE INADVISABLE HERE, GIVEN SPECIAL NATURE OF SENSITIVITY OF OKINAWAN ATTITUDES TOWARD POLICE AUTHORITIES AND TOWARD U.S. MILITARY BASES, A POSITION WHICH CONGEN BELIEVES IS PROBABLY CORRECT IN CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES.

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PAGE 03 NAHA 00066 101054Z

PAGE 4 RHAIBQA5169 C O N F I D E N T I A L

4. AS ONE MIGHT EXPECT, LOCAL NEWS MEDIA GIVE MAJOR COVERAGE TO SPECIFIC CRIMES AND OTHER LEGAL OFFENSES AS THEY OCCUR, USUALLY PROPORTIONATE TO THEIR SERIOUSNESS AND HUMAN INTEREST VALUE. OVER PAST MONTH, AMERICANS HAVE BEEN INVOLVED ON ONLY A FEW OCCASIONS IN CRIMES REPORTED BY NEWS MEDIA AND SUCH CASES HAVE NOT ATTRACTED ANY

MAJOR ATTENTION.

5. CURRENTLY, TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS AND FATALITIES (SHICH REACHED AN HISTORIC PEAK ON OKINAWA IN JANUARY) ARE THE SUBJECT RECEIVING GREATEST ON GOING ATTENTION BY NEWS MEDIA AND POLICE AUTHORITIES. THUS FAR, NEWS COVERAGE AND COMMENTARY HAS NOT FOCUSED ON TRAFFIC OFFENSES COMMITTED BY AMERICANS(WHICH ARE SIGNIFICANT IN VOLUME AND A PROBLEM OF CONTINUING CONCERN TO U.S. MILITARY AUTHORITIES) AND HAS NOT RELATED THIS OKINAWAN PROBLEM TO PRESENCE OF U.S. MILITARY BASES. LOCAL MEDIA CAN BE EXPECTED, HOWEVER, TO REPORT AND PLAY UP ANY INCIDENTS IN WHICH AMERICANS ARE CHARGE WITH CAUSING FATALITIES OR SERIOUS INJURIES TO OKINAWANS.

6. FORE GOING REPORT IS NOT INTENDED TO SUGGEST THAT CRIMES COMMITTED BY AMERICANS PERSONNEL ON OKINAWA SHOIULD NOT CONTINUE TO BE SUBJECT OF HIGH - PRIORITY CONCERN. AMERICAN CRIMES AND OTHER SERIOUS OFFENSES,

SUCH AS CHILD RAPE LIKE LAST SUMMER'S FLORES CASE, CONTINUE TO HAVE THE POTENTIAL OF AROUSING STRONG OKINAWAN EMOTIONS AND OF PROVIDING FUEL FOR THOSE LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS ACTIVELY OPPOSED TO THE PRESENCE OF OUR MILITARY BASES ON OKINAWA.

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